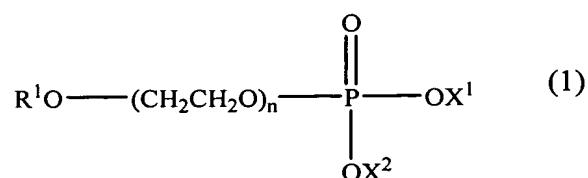


# IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

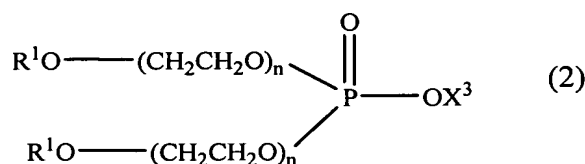
1. (previously presented) A cleanser composition which is weakly acidic and comprises the following components (a) and (b) in a (a)/(b) ratio of from 65/35 to 90/10 by weight:

(a) a phosphate monoester represented by the general formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents an alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 9 to 15 carbon atoms on average with a branching degree of 10% or more,  $\text{X}^1$  and  $\text{X}^2$  each represent a hydrogen atom or an alkali metal, and  $n$  is a number of 0 to 5 which refers to the number of ethylene oxide units added on average,

(b) a phosphate diester represented by the general formula (2) or a salt thereof:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $n$  each have the same meaning as defined above, and  $\text{X}^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkali metal.

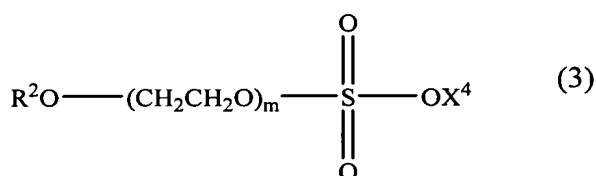
2. (original) The cleanser composition according to claim 1, which exhibits a pH value of 4.5 to 6.5 upon dilution at a concentration of 5% by weight with deionized water.

3. (original) The cleanser composition according to claim 1, wherein the total amount of the components (a) and (b) is 3 to 50% by weight.

4. (previously presented) The cleanser composition according to claim 1, which further comprises at least one co-surfactant, referred to hereinafter as component (c), selected from the group consisting of an alkyl ethoxylate sulfate, a betaine-type surfactant, a fatty acid or a salt thereof, an amine oxide, an isethionic acid-based surfactant, a sugar-based surfactant, an alkanol amide, an N-acylamino acid salt and an N-acyl-N-methyl taurine salt.

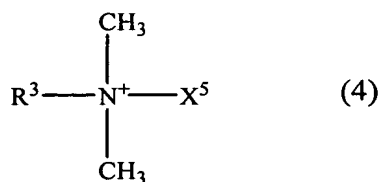
5. (previously presented) The cleanser composition according to claim 4, which further comprises, as said component (c), at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

(c-1) an alkyl ethoxylate sulfate represented by the general formula (3):



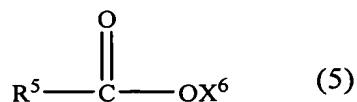
wherein  $\text{R}^2$  represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 10 to 18 carbon atoms on average,  $\text{X}^4$  represents an alkali metal, and  $m$  is a number of 0 to 10 indicating the number of ethylene oxide units added on average;

(c-2) a betaine-type surfactant represented by the general formula (4):



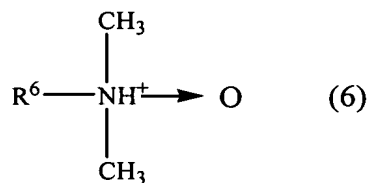
wherein  $\text{R}^3$  represents an alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average or an acyl amino alkyl group represented by the formula  $\text{R}^4\text{CONH}(\text{CH}_2)_a-$  whereupon  $\text{R}^4\text{CO}$  represents an acyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average and  $a$  is an integer of 2 to 4, and  $\text{X}^5$  represents a  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_3^-$  group or a  $-\text{CH}_2\text{COO}^-$  group;

(c-3) a fatty acid or a salt thereof represented by the general formula (5):



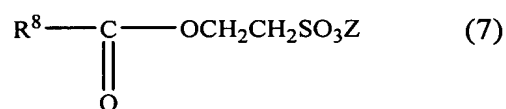
wherein  $\text{R}^5$  represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 9 to 17 carbon atoms on average, and  $\text{X}^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal,  $\text{NH}_4$  or alkanol ammonium;

(c-4) an amine oxide represented by the general formula (6):



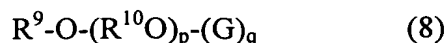
wherein  $\text{R}^6$  represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average or an acyl amino alkyl group represented by the formula  $\text{R}^7\text{CONH}(\text{CH}_2)_b-$  whereupon  $\text{R}^7\text{CO}$  represents an acyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average and  $b$  is an integer of 2 to 4;

(c-5) an isethionic acid-based surfactant represented by the general formula (7):



wherein  $\text{R}^8$  represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 9 to 17 carbon atoms on average, and  $\text{Z}$  represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal,  $\text{NH}_4$  or alkanol ammonium;

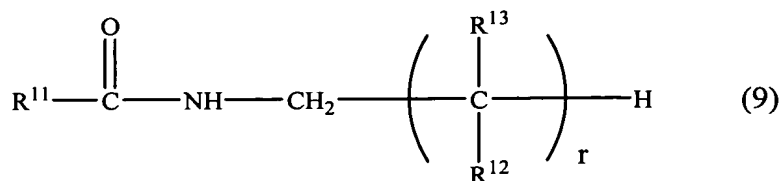
(c-6) a sugar-based surfactant represented by the general formula (8):



wherein  $\text{R}^9$  represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average,  $\text{R}^{10}$  represents an alkylene group comprising 2 to 4 carbon atoms,  $\text{G}$  represents a residue derived from a reducing sugar comprising 5 to 6 carbon atoms,  $p$  is a

number of 0 to 10 indicating the number of alkylene oxide units added on average, and q is a number of 1 to 10 indicating the average condensation degree of the reducing sugar;

(c-7) an alkanol amide represented by the general formula (9):



wherein  $\text{R}^{11}$  represents a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group comprising 7 to 17 carbon atoms on average,  $\text{R}^{12}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,  $\text{R}^{13}$  represents a hydroxyl group or a hydrogen atom, r is a number of 1 to 5, and  $(\text{R}^{12})_r$  groups and  $(\text{R}^{13})_r$  groups may be the same or different, respectively, provided that one of  $(\text{R}^{13})_r$  groups is a hydroxyl group;

(c-8) an N-acylamino acid salt having an acyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average, and

(c-9) an N-acyl-N-methyl taurine salt comprising an acyl group comprising 8 to 18 carbon atoms on average.

6. (previously presented) The cleanser composition according to claim 4, wherein the content of the component (c) is 0.5 to 20% by weight.

7. (previously presented) The cleanser composition according to claim 2, wherein the total amount of the components (a) and (b) is 3 to 50% by weight.

8. (previously presented) The cleanser composition according to claim 5, wherein the content of the component (c) is 0.5 to 20% by weight.

9. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> has a degree of branching of 10 to 60%.

10. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl or alkenyl group containing 10 to 14 carbon atoms.

11. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl or alkenyl group containing 11 to 13 carbon atoms.

12. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 1, further comprising as component (d) a C<sub>5-6</sub> glycol.

13. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 12, wherein said glycol is at least one selected from the group consisting of dipropylene glycol and isoprene glycol.

14. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 12, wherein said glycol is present in an amount of 0.1 to 30 wt. % based on the whole composition.

15. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 12, wherein a ratio of components (d)/((a) + (b)) is 95/5 to 5/95.

16. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 12, wherein a total content of components (a), (b) and (d) is 3 to 60 wt. %.

17. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 1, further comprising as component (e) a thickening polymer compound having a carboxyl group.

18. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 17, wherein said thickening polymer has a crosslinked structure.

19. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 17, wherein said thickening polymer is present in amount of 0.005 to 5 wt.% based on the whole composition.

20. (new) The cleanser composition of claim 17, wherein said thickening polymer is at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a carboxyvinyl polymer having polyacrylic acid as a main chain and an allyl sucrose structure as a crosslinking group and a carboxyvinyl polymer having polyacrylic acid as a main chain and a pentaerythritol structure as a crosslinking group.